

CHAPTER 141 INSPECT COMMUNICATIONS STATIONS

Section 1 Background

1. PTRS ACTIVITY CODES

- Avionics: 5890

3. OBJECTIVE. This chapter provides guidance for inspecting an operator's ground communications station as used for dispatch and/or flight following purposes.

5. GENERAL. While these inspections are normally accomplished by Operations Aviation Safety Inspectors (ASIs), Avionics ASIs may become involved in special inspections, such as accident investigations, suspected communications problems, deterioration of communications, and new system evaluations.

A. The inspection of an operator's ground communication stations ensures that the capabilities and reliability of the facilities have not deteriorated beyond the minimum requirements established by the Federal Aviation Regulations. The inspection also ensures that the stations continue to meet the standards demonstrated by the operator during the en route approval proving flights.

B. In most cases, communications facilities may be satisfactorily assessed by en route inspections and/or inspections of flight dispatch centers.

Section 2 Procedures

1. PREREQUISITES AND COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Prerequisites

- Knowledge of the operator's communications requirements
- Successful completion of Airworthiness Inspector's Indoctrination Course for General Aviation and Air Carrier Inspections, or previous equivalent
- Completion of the En Route Inspection Course

B. *Coordination.* This task requires coordination with Operations Aviation Safety Inspectors (ASIs), air carrier dispatch and/or flight following personnel, and air carrier avionics personnel.

3. REFERENCES, FORMS, AND JOB AIDS

A. References

- FAR Parts 121, 125, 127, and 135

B. *Forms.* None.

C. *Job Aids.* None.

5. PROCEDURES

A. Evaluate the Operator's Suspected Communications Problems

(1) Discuss with the operator the nature of the deficiency.

(2) Accomplish the following, as required:

- Review procedures, equipment records, and historical records, as available
- Conduct a physical inspection of the communications facilities
- Conduct flight and/or ground evaluations

(3) Review any communications records (FAR § 121.711)

(4) Analyze the results of the investigation. Ensure that any deficiencies found are resolved.

B. Evaluate a New System

(1) Discuss the requirements for the new system with the operator.

(2) Accomplish the following, as required:

- Examine the compatibility of the new system with the operator's dispatch and flight following capabilities
- Conduct a physical inspection of the new system/facility
- Conduct flight and/or ground evaluations

(3) Analyze the results of the evaluation. Ensure that the new system/facility complies with the appropriate regulations.

7. TASK OUTCOMES

A. File PTRS Transmittal Form

B. Completion of this task will result in the following:

(1) A narrative report outlining the source of the request for the inspection, the problem investigated, the findings, and any recommendations

(2) Filing of the original report with the office performing the inspection with a copy sent to the certificate holding district office

(3) Coordination with the operator for revisions of the operator's operations specifications, as appropriate

3. FUTURE ACTIVITIES. Normal surveillance.